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General and complete disarmament

Reducing nuclear danger

Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

Nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Observations	2
III.	Information received from Governments	6
	Cuba	6
	El Salvador	8
	Japan	9
	Lebanon	12
	Lithuania	13
	Mexico	13
	Nicaragua	14
	Qatar	14

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to requests contained in General Assembly resolutions 63/46, 63/47 and 63/49.

2. In paragraph 22 of resolution 63/46, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its sixty-fourth session, a report on the implementation of the resolution.

3. In paragraph 5 of resolution 63/47, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute towards the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war (see A/56/400, para. 3) and to continue to encourage Member States to consider the convening of an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see Assembly resolution 55/2), to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

4. In paragraph 3 of resolution 63/49, the General Assembly requested all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they had taken on the implementation of the resolution and nuclear disarmament and requested the Secretary-General to apprise the Assembly of that information at its sixty-fourth session.

II. Observations

5. The Secretary-General, warning that "the risk of proliferation of nuclear and other weapons hangs like a sword of Damocles over our heads", has set non-proliferation and disarmament as one of his six main priorities for action. In his statement to the Conference on Disarmament on 19 May 2009, he said:

> There are now a number of initiatives from nuclear and non-nuclear States that together provide a new momentum for disarmament. They point the way to move from the divisions and paralysis of the past towards genuine dialogue and progress. These signs of greater political will represent an opportunity we cannot afford to miss ... A renewed focus on disarmament and non-proliferation will benefit international security and stability. It can also produce considerable dividends for peace and development. The world is enduring a deep economic and financial crisis. By accelerating disarmament, we can liberate resources that we need to combat climate change, address food insecurity and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Let us unite behind a shared vision of a safer world. Let us find the courage for bold action to make it a reality.

6. Cautious optimism has gradually emerged during the last 12 months that progress in multilateral nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation could be achieved. A "new momentum" for nuclear disarmament has been spurred on by numerous new global initiatives from Governments and civil society alike. Additional calls for a world free of nuclear weapons, similar to the ones contained in the *Wall Street Journal* articles written by George Shultz, William Perry, Henry Kissinger and Sam Nunn, were made by former statesmen in the United Kingdom of

Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Italy, Germany and Norway. Large global initiatives on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy and on nuclear security, such as the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, the World Institute for Nuclear Security and Global Zero, have been launched.

7. Some nuclear-weapon States have proposed their own plans on how to move forward towards a world free of nuclear weapons. The United States of America and the Russian Federation have both stated their commitment to the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons in accordance with their disarmament obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In a joint statement on 1 April, Presidents Medvedev and Obama announced that they had decided to move further along the path of reducing and limiting strategic offensive arms in accordance with United States and Russian obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and that they therefore had decided to begin bilateral intergovernmental negotiations to work out a new, comprehensive, legally binding agreement on reducing and limiting strategic offensive arms to replace the START Treaty, which is due to expire in December 2009. These negotiations have already begun with meetings being held in Washington and Geneva in May and June.

8. On 24 October 2008, the Secretary-General also outlined his own five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament. In a speech delivered at an event hosted by the East-West Institute at United Nations Headquarters in New York, he urged all Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons parties, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to fulfil their obligation under the Treaty to undertake negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament, suggesting that this could be achieved by means of a convention or of a framework of agreements with this aim. He also encouraged States to make new efforts to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force and called upon the Conference on Disarmament to begin negotiations on a fissile material treaty immediately and without preconditions. The Secretary-General supported the entry-into-force of existing nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East. In addition, he urged nuclear-weapon States to assure non-nuclear-weapon States that they will not be the subject of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and also underlined the need for further accountability and transparency with regard to nuclear disarmament measures.

9. Tangible progress has been made in several areas. On 21 March, the Treaty on a Central Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone entered into force. This is the first nuclear-weapon-free zone to be established entirely in the northern hemisphere, bordered by two nuclear-weapon States and where nuclear weapons previously existed. It is also the first nuclear-weapon-free zone that requires its parties to conclude with the International Atomic Energy Agency and bring into force an additional protocol to their safeguards agreements within 18 months after the entry into force of the Treaty, and to comply fully with the provisions of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty is close to entry into force, with only one additional State required to ratify the Treaty so as to reach the required number of 28. However, progress on the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East remains difficult to discern.

10. The parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons concluded the third session of its Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference in New York on 15 May. Constructive participation by all States parties created a positive atmosphere and allowed for the early adoption of all procedural arrangements for the 2010 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conference, including its provisional agenda and draft rules of procedure. The Preparatory Committee also endorsed the nomination of Ambassador Libran N. Cabactulan from the Philippines as the President-elect of the Conference. Deep differences persist among parties on the three pillars of the Treaty — disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy — and the Committee could not reach agreement on substantive recommendations for the Review Conference; nevertheless, with the decisions taken at the third session States parties have cleared the path for the immediate start of substantive discussions at the 2010 Review Conference. Furthermore, the discussions on three papers containing draft recommendations on the substantive issues before the States parties prepared by the Chairman provided a useful indicator of the issues that would require greater effort if consensus is to be reached at the Review Conference in 2010.

11. The agreement by the Conference on Disarmament on 29 May 2009 on a substantive programme of work for the 2009 session, after over a decade of stagnation and deadlock, was a welcome sign that the multilateral disarmament climate was beginning to improve. The programme of work contained in decision CD/1864 will allow the Conference to establish a working group to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The Conference will also establish a working group discussing practical steps for progressive and systematic efforts to reduce nuclear weapons, with the ultimate goal of their elimination, including on approaches towards potential future work of a multilateral character; a working group to discuss substantively, without limitation, all issues related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space; and a working group under the agenda item entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons". Further, special coordinators will be appointed to deal with the agenda items entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons", "Comprehensive programme of Disarmament" and "Transparency in armaments". The Secretary-General, who addressed the Conference the week prior to the adoption of the draft programme, welcomed the agreement and believed that it would generate another important impetus to advancing disarmament and non-proliferation, in general, and to achieving success at the 2010 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conference, in particular.

12. The Disarmament Commission launched a new three-year cycle of deliberations in April 2009. The Commission adopted an agenda that allowed for two working groups to be formed during the first year and the commencement of substantive deliberations on: (a) recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; and (b) elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade, as mandated by the General Assembly. Discussions on those items will continue next year.

13. Progress is still slow, however, in some areas. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has not yet entered into force since it still lacks the ratifications of nine States listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty. In his opening remarks to the fourth

biennial ministerial meeting held in support of the Treaty on 24 September 2008 in New York, the Secretary-General once again urged all Governments that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay. He also called upon all States to continue their voluntary adherence to a nuclear-weapon-test moratorium and to refrain from acts contrary to the object and purpose of the Treaty prior to its entry into force. He also stressed that efforts must be redoubled to achieve deeper reductions in nuclear arsenals and to further diminish the role of nuclear weapons in security policies. In October, the Secretary-General, as Depository of the Treaty, sent letters to the nine countries whose ratifications are required for the Treaty to enter into force, urging them to do so as soon as possible.

14. Nuclear-weapon States have continued to emphasize the importance of nuclear deterrence in their security policies. Complete nuclear disarmament is regarded as dependant upon the fulfilment of a number of other preconditions, such as ensuring regional peace and stability, preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons to non-State actors, making sure that all States possessing nuclear weapons, not just the five nuclear-weapon States, disarm fully, and ensuring that the complete elimination of nuclear weapons from all arsenals is verifiable and irreversible so as to prevent a reversal of such efforts. Proposals for the negotiation of a universal nuclear-weapon convention banning the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons are still referred to as premature. While committing to further deep cuts in their nuclear arsenals, nuclear-weapon States maintain that until the above conditions are met, they consider it important that their nuclear weapons remain a necessary deterrent.

15. On 25 May 2009, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea conducted a second underground nuclear test, in direct violation of the terms set out in Security Council resolution 1718 (2006). The Security Council condemned the test in the strongest terms and on 12 June adopted resolution 1874 (2009), whereby its strengthened existing financial and arms-related sanctions, including a call upon all States to inspect all cargo to and from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to inspect vessels, with the consent of the flag State, if the State concerned had information providing reasonable grounds to believe that the prohibited items referred to in resolution 1718 (2006) were present. While small arms and light weapons and their related materiel were exempted, States were called upon to exercise vigilance over the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of small arms or light weapons and to notify the Committee at least five days prior to selling, supplying or transferring small arms or light weapons to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

16. The Secretary-General welcomed the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 1874 (2009) and reiterated his conviction that all differences should be resolved in a peaceful manner through dialogue, while calling upon the concerned parties to refrain from taking any measures that could exacerbate tensions in the region and to exert their best efforts to re-engage in dialogue, including through the six-party talks. He later also stressed that the test underscored the urgency of bringing the Treaty into force without further delay.

17. The International Atomic Energy Agency continued its efforts to verify the peaceful nature of the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Agency has also investigated allegations concerning a destroyed building at the Dair

Alzour site in the Syrian Arab Republic and sought to clarify the presence of uranium particles there.

18. The Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs have continued their efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation globally through direct interaction with Governments and civil society alike and through advocacy and other outreach activities. In addition to presenting his own five-point plan for disarmament, the Secretary-General also launched an Internet-campaign to inform the public of the urgency of taking immediate measures to reach the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons remain one of the Secretary-General's six main priorities.

III. Information received from Governments

19. By a note verbale dated 11 February 2009, all Member States were invited to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they had taken with regard to the implementation of resolution 63/49, concerning the follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*. To date, Cuba, El Salvador, Japan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Nicaragua and Qatar have sent replies, the texts of which are reproduced below. Additional replies received from Member States will be issued as addenda to the present report.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[11 June 2009]

1. On 8 July 1996, the International Court of Justice issued its historic advisory opinion on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*. Cuba notes with concern that, despite the Court's opinion, humankind still runs the risk of annihilation as a result of the existence and potential use of an immense arsenal of nuclear weapons.

2. Notwithstanding the proclaimed end of the Cold War, there are some 25,000 nuclear weapons in the world, over 10,200 of which are ready for immediate use.

3. The risk of a nuclear crisis is increasingly imminent. It is disturbing that the use of this kind of weapon remains a fundamental part of the military doctrines of certain nuclear Powers. Worse yet, the authorities of one of them, the United States of America, have stated that it may use them even against non-nuclear-weapon States in response to attacks using non-nuclear weapons.

4. For non-nuclear-weapon States that are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, this situation gives cause for serious concern. The nuclear-weapon States have a legal obligation not only to pursue, but also to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international verification.

5. Paradoxically, some of the nuclear Powers hypocritically limit the nuclear problem to the issue of horizontal non-proliferation, to the detriment of nuclear disarmament, while they themselves are updating their nuclear arsenals in what amounts to vertical proliferation. A clear example is the United States "Complex 2030" programme, which entails an expenditure of $150 billion over the next 25 years to update nuclear weapons research and infrastructure.

6. The international community's multilateral mechanisms and instruments for addressing issues related to disarmament and arms control are being prevented from achieving their goals. Examples include the inability to implement the 13 practical steps adopted at the 2000 Sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the failures of the 2005 World Summit, the Outcome Document of which could not even contain a reference to disarmament, and, subsequently, of the 2005 Seventh Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and the continued inability of the Conference on Disarmament to hold urgent negotiations on a phased disarmament programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Cuba hopes that the new Government of the United States, which has made encouraging promises in that regard, will demonstrate the necessary political will to move the negotiations forward and obtain concrete results at the 2010 Eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Conference on Disarmament.

7. In September 2006, Cuba had the honour of presiding over the Fourteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana. At this event, the leaders confirmed that nuclear disarmament is a top priority with respect to disarmament and arms control and reaffirmed the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. This was confirmed at the Fifteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran in July 2008, and, more recently, at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Havana from 27 to 30 April 2009.

8. Cuba is a State party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to the international treaties on chemical and biological weapons. In the United Nations General Assembly, it supports resolutions that advocate the total elimination of nuclear weapons, such as resolution 63/46 on nuclear disarmament and resolution 63/75 on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons.

9. As a member of the Conference on Disarmament, Cuba is in favour of giving priority to commencing negotiations on a phased programme for nuclear disarmament, culminating in the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, and has been among the sponsors of concrete initiatives developed by the Group of 21 for that purpose. This position extends to Cuba's participation in the United Nations Disarmament Commission, where it has joined the other countries members of the Non-Aligned Movement in proposing a set of recommendations aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament.

10. The recommendations submitted to the United Nations Disarmament Commission show how the members of the Non-Aligned Movement, including

Cuba, are acting in a manner consistent with the aims and purposes of General Assembly resolution 63/49.

11. The lack of progress in the area of nuclear disarmament means that the views that the Government of the Republic of Cuba conveyed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations pursuant to resolution 61/83, published in the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/165), remain entirely valid.

12. Cuba reiterates that nuclear non-proliferation, while important, is not an end in itself but rather a means of achieving the ultimate, supreme goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It also stresses that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only sure way of avoiding the catastrophic consequences of their use. The current nuclear weapons, which are thousands of times more powerful than the bombs that the United States of America used against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, would cause destruction and genocide far more devastating than those of 1945.

13. The use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic consequences for all known forms of life on Earth. Their use would, moreover, constitute a flagrant violation of international standards on the prevention of genocide and on environmental protection. The international community should insist on compliance with the commitment to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a world free of such lethal weapons.

14. Cuba maintains that the use of nuclear weapons is completely immoral and cannot be justified by any concept or a doctrine of security. It is highly disturbing, and completely unnecessary, that nuclear weapons still exist and that new and more sophisticated ones which pose a grave threat to all humanity, especially for countries that do not possess such weapons of mass destruction, continue to be developed.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[17 April 2009]

1. As a Member State of the United Nations, El Salvador has signed and ratified various international instruments relating to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

2. At the multilateral level, El Salvador also participates actively in the promotion of all relevant initiatives aimed at strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime at the regional and international levels.

3. El Salvador participates in the various training and awareness-raising programmes on disarmament, nuclear arsenal reduction and the prevention of nuclear proliferation in all its aspects.

4. The plan to modernize and equip the Armed Forces of El Salvador does not include the acquisition of nuclear weapons.

5. El Salvador has consistently supported all United Nations General Assembly resolutions aimed at nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

6. As a member of the Central American Integration System and other regional groups represented at the United Nations, El Salvador has endorsed the various declarations calling upon States to fulfil the obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to the adoption of a legally binding multilateral instrument on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control, as specified in the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice.

7. As a member of the Central American Integration System and other regional groups represented at the United Nations, El Salvador has also joined in calls for the nuclear-weapon States to take all necessary steps to conclude a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States.

8. The Government of El Salvador wishes to underscore the urgent need for the international community, and especially the non-nuclear-weapon States and international civil society, to continue their systematic and consistent efforts to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime.

Japan

[Original: English]
[29 May 2009]

Commitment to the Three Non-Nuclear Principles

1. The Government of Japan continues to firmly commit itself to the "Three Non-Nuclear Principles", which describes the policy of not possessing, not producing and not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons into Japan. Successive Cabinets of Japan, including the incumbent Cabinet under Prime Minister Aso, have repeatedly articulated that Japan will continue to uphold these principles.

Submission of resolutions on nuclear disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly

2. Every year since 1994 Japan has submitted its resolutions on nuclear disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly. In 2008, taking into consideration the recent international situation surrounding nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Japan once again submitted its draft resolution on nuclear disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly. On 2 December 2008, the draft resolution was adopted at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly by an overwhelming majority of 173 votes in favour, which is the highest number ever.

3. Although the situation surrounding nuclear disarmament remains challenging, in response to the political will of a large majority of the international community, which was expressed through the adoption of that resolution, Japan intends to pursue its various diplomatic efforts to maintain and reinforce the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Efforts for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

4. Japan attaches great importance to the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which constitutes one of the major pillars of the NPT regime. From this point of view, Japan has made various efforts, including the following:

- As an effort to promote the early ratification by the annex II States, in August 2008, Japan invited Government officials from non-ratification States to visit facilities of the International Monitoring System (IMS) hosted by Japan and to exchange views on the Treaty with relevant Japanese authorities. Japan, together with Australia, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Finland and the Netherlands, co-hosted the Fourth CTBT Friends Ministerial Meeting in September 2008, which issued a joint ministerial statement. The statement calls for the immediate signing and ratification of the Treaty and the continuation of the moratorium on nuclear tests. The statement has been signed by 96 countries, exceeding the results of the past three meetings.
- Efforts to establish a nuclear-test-ban verification regime, including the IMS, undertaken by the Preparatory Commission for the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) continue. Japan has already established all the necessary monitoring stations in its territory as part of the robust worldwide verification mechanism to ensure the early detection of nuclear explosions.

Activities in preparation for the commencement of fissile material cut-off treaty negotiations

5. Japan gives emphasis to the importance and urgency of the commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT). As a concrete contribution to this end, Japan presented, in May 2006, a working paper on an FMCT to the Conference on Disarmament (CD), aimed at deepening discussions on the substantive issues of an FMCT, and facilitating the early commencement of FMCT negotiations.

6. Japan has been making its utmost efforts to break the current stalemate at the CD, thereby realizing the early commencement of negotiations on an FMCT. Japan has redoubled its endeavours for this purpose through the dispatch of high-level representatives to the CD at various opportunities. Ambassador Sumio Tarui was the coordinator at the CD in 2008 for agenda items 1 and 2, with a general focus on the prohibition of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Japan appealed to the members of the CD to commence negotiations on an FMCT without delay on many of occasions.

Contribution to the 2010 NPT review process

7. As tangible contributions to the preparatory process for the 2010 Review Conference, Ambassador Yukiya Amano contributed as the Chairman to the success of the first session of the Preparatory Committee. On 27 April 2009, Minister for Foreign Affairs Hirofumi Nakasone made a Statement about global nuclear disarmament in Tokyo. He addressed the importance of practical steps towards a world free of nuclear weapons and presented 11 benchmarks for "global nuclear

disarmament". This proposal was formally made by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Masahiko Shibayama at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

8. Japan submitted to the Preparatory Committee of the Review Conference a working paper on the theme "Eleven benchmarks for global nuclear disarmament" (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.III/WP.13) and one on Cluster 3 (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.III/WP.38).

9. Japan and Australia jointly launched the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) as a second-track enterprise involving various eminent individuals. The Commission aims to produce by the end of 2009 a realistic, practical and action-oriented report with a view to contributing to the success of the 2010 Review Conference and presenting a roadmap towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Cooperation for denuclearization in Russia

10. At the Kananaskis Summit in June 2002, G-8 leaders announced the G-8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction to address non-proliferation, disarmament, counter-terrorism and nuclear safety issues. Japan committed itself, for the purpose of this Partnership, to make a contribution amounting to over US$ 200 million, out of which US$ 100 million is to be allocated to the G-8 programme for disposal of Russian surplus weapons-grade plutonium and the rest to projects for dismantling decommissioned Russian nuclear submarines. Since then Japan has extended cooperation to the Russian Federation and completed the dismantlement of four decommissioned nuclear submarines. Japan is committed to funding the dismantlement of two additional submarines. Furthermore, in 2006, Japan decided to cooperate in the construction of an on-shore storage facility for reactor compartments at Razboynik Bay, and on May 2009 the implementing arrangement was signed to this end.

11. In April 2008, based on the prospect that all decommissioned nuclear submarines in the Russian Far East would be dismantled by 2010, including those being dismantled through the cooperation between Japan and the Russian Federation, Japan expressed its intention to consider additional areas for bilateral cooperation.

Efforts to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education

12. Since 1983, Japan has invited more than 650 participants in the United Nations disarmament fellowship programme to Japan, including to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This has provided these young officials, who will be responsible for future disarmament diplomacy, with an opportunity to witness the horrendous and long-lasting consequences caused by atomic bombs. Japan will continue to contribute to this programme.

13. Japan believes that the international community should be well informed of the destructive effects of nuclear weapons. In accordance with the wish of the people of Japan that such weapons never be used again, the Government of Japan has supported, on a number of occasions, the efforts of local governments and NGOs in foreign countries to organize exhibitions relating to atomic bombs.

14. On the margins of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference in 2008, Japan hosted a disarmament and non-proliferation education seminar on how experiences of nuclear devastation should be handed down from one generation to the next. The manga related to the experience of the atomic bombings, *Town of Evening Calm, Country of Cherry Blossoms*, was distributed to participants at the session.

15. Within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Saitama, Japan, a forum on the importance of cooperation with the general public on disarmament and non-proliferation education was held with prominent educators in August 2008.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[6 April 2009]

The Lebanese Republic affirms the following:

- Lebanon does not possess or produce weapons of mass destruction, and complies with United Nations resolutions in that regard. It believes that the threat or use of such weapons is illegal.
- Lebanon supports and welcomes all initiatives aimed at achieving complete and universal disarmament, in particular in the Middle East, which it strongly believes should be a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. It is concerned by Israel's non-compliance with international law as reflected by that country's maintenance of a nuclear arsenal that constitutes a persistent threat to all States in the region and, by extension, to international peace and security.
- The Arab States should continue to demand the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East as the only available option for confronting the threat to international peace and collective Arab security posed by Israeli nuclear weapons and other Israeli weapons of mass destruction.
- The international community should continue to require all States in the region, including Israel, to sign treaties on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons.
- The Arab position should be unified and the League of Arab States should play an effective role. Action should be taken to ensure the acquisition of the scientific expertise and facilities necessary for protection against weapons of mass destruction. Continued efforts should be made to expose Israel as a State that does not heed the call for the development and dissemination of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in areas that serve sustainable development, and to take into account the various needs of the Arab States.

Lithuania

[Original: English]
[27 May 2009]

1. The Republic of Lithuania strongly supports a multilateral disarmament framework and efforts of the international community to strengthen international peace and security and the non-proliferation regime. The Republic of Lithuania is a State party to all international non-proliferation conventions and other relevant legally binding instruments. The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania explicitly prohibits weapons of mass destruction in the territory of the State. Accordingly, the Republic of Lithuania has never had a nuclear weapon, a military nuclear programme or means of delivery.

2. The Republic of Lithuania assures its commitment to the strengthening of implementation and the universalization of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[5 June 2009]

1. Mexico believes that the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons* is historic because it reaffirms the existence of a legal obligation of States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.

2. Almost 13 years after the advisory opinion was handed down, Mexico considers that it remains fully in force and calls attention to the grave danger that nuclear arms represent.

3. Mexico has taken the following actions, initiatives and steps with a view to the total elimination of nuclear weapons:

4. At the sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mexico, together with other members of the New Agenda Coalition (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden), sponsored a resolution on nuclear disarmament that was adopted by a majority of Member States. Furthermore, together with Australia and New Zealand, it proposed the adoption of a new resolution on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, as well as resolutions on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education and the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme and a decision on the United Nations conference to identify appropriate ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament, with a view to initiating coordination among zones in the lead-up to the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, to be held in 2010.

Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]
[6 March 2009]

1. As a peace-loving State, Nicaragua is aware that the use of weapons of mass destruction undermines regional and international stability and that the use of some of these weapons, such as nuclear weapons, endangers the very existence of humankind. The use of such weapons is a flagrant violation of the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of international humanitarian law. In its historic advisory opinion of 8 July 1996, the International Court of Justice established the existence of an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. Furthermore, the General Assembly has reiterated its appeal for all Member States to fulfil that obligation immediately by commencing multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination in order to build trust between nations and to strengthen international peace and security.

2. It is important to recognize the leadership of Latin America; since 1967, through the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (the Treaty of Tlatelolco), it has been the world's largest nuclear-free zone. In that connection, Nicaragua has legal obligations under a number of international treaties and conventions aimed at the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof.

3. Because of its interest in disarmament, Nicaragua has participated in international conferences held within the framework of the United Nations and in other international forums, at which it has supported multilateral negotiations on disarmament. Nicaragua has worked towards the adoption, evaluation and review of resolutions and declarations on disarmament in order to ensure steady progress towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective control.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[14 April 2009]

Response to United Nations General Assembly resolution 63/49 entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*"

The advisory opinion is of a political rather than a legal nature given that, from a legal standpoint, the use or threat of force is already prohibited. The Charter of the United Nations, article 1, paragraph 1, states that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security.

To that end, article 2, paragraph 4, states that all Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force. That means that States may not even threaten to use force. The kind of force referred to is the force of arms, which cover, by logical necessity, arms of all types, including nuclear weapons.

Because of the nature of its people and by virtue of its Constitution, Qatar is a peace-loving State. It enjoys good relations with neighbouring and all other States. Accordingly, disputing parties place their trust and confidence in the ability of Qatar to mediate a number of disputes, as has been demonstrated by the following:

- Qatar played a successful role in mediating an end to clashes between Government forces and the Houthi rebels in the Sa'da Governorate of Yemen.
- Qatar successfully mediated a resolution to the dispute between the pro-Government alliance and the opposition in Lebanon.
- Qatar plays an ongoing role in efforts to resolve the Darfur crisis.
- The Palestinians are expecting Qatar to play a role in ending the dispute between Hamas and Fatah.

In article 6, the Constitution of Qatar provides that the State shall honour international pacts and treaties and implement all international agreements, pacts and treaties to which it is a party, including the Charter of the United Nations, which prohibits the threat or use of force. Article 7 of the Constitution states that the foreign policy of the State shall be based on the principle of consolidating peace, while article 71 states that wars of aggression are prohibited.